

ARTICLE APPEARED

3-4

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

25 April 1983

# *Pravda: U.S. envoy was expelled for spying*

By David Minthorn  
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Communist Party newspaper Pravda reported yesterday that an American diplomat in Leningrad was expelled from the Soviet Union for spying, but U.S. officials said there had been no such expulsions from Leningrad in several years.

Pravda identified the diplomat as "Vice Consul D. Shorer" and said he had been seized by the KGB secret police while retrieving a "magnetic container" of information placed in a hiding place in the northern Soviet city by a double agent.

"The case, if it occurred at all, is out of the past and not anything recent. It didn't happen in the last two years and no one recalls anything like it in recent years," a U.S. Embassy spokesman in Moscow said in an interview.

Shorer's name was not in reference books listing American diplomats who have served in the Soviet Union in recent years. Nor was there mention of another diplomat identified by Pravda, "Second Secretary Douglas Terence," who allegedly recruited the double agent for the CIA while the Soviet was living in an unidentified African country.

The Soviet Union sometimes publicizes spy cases long after the fact, and the Pravda story did not give a date for the expulsion.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Sue Pittman said, "There has been no recent expulsion from Leningrad in the last several years." She declined to comment on whether a diplomat named D. Shorer had ever been expelled from the Soviet Union.

The report came amid a flurry of espionage charges between the two nations. Two Soviet envoys at U.N. headquarters in New York were ex-

pelled from the United States last week, and another Soviet diplomat, stationed in Washington, left the country ahead of an expulsion order.

On March 10, American diplomat Richard Osborne was ordered to leave the Soviet Union after being caught in Moscow with an illegal radio transmitter, the Tass news agency said.

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow said Osborne was a first secretary in the economics section, but U.S. officials have declined all comment on the circumstances of his expulsion.

Pravda said the secret police had grabbed Shorer while he was picking up a container of information placed by the double agent, identified as "Boris N.," in an electrical-transformer installation at Botkin Hospital in Leningrad.

"At first he tried to resist, but finally found that these attempts were fruitless. Then he decided to make a show, causing injuries to himself by falling on his face to have a reason to accuse the KGB officers. But his cunning was in vain," Pravda said.

The article was accompanied by a photograph showing two metallic cylinders and papers. They were identified in a caption as "espionage equipment, taken from one of the agents of American intelligence."

The magnetized container was taken away from Shorer in the presence of Soviet witnesses, and the incident was immediately reported to the U.S. general consul, who was called to the scene, the article said.

"Shorer made all kinds of attempts to 'explain' to the consul, but he would not listen to him, waving his hand and telling him to keep quiet," the newspaper said.

Pravda said Boris N. had been approached to work for the CIA by a U.S. diplomat the paper identified as "Second Secretary Douglas Terence." The contact had occurred when the Soviet was working in an African country, the paper said.

On his return to Leningrad, Pravda

said, Boris received a letter from the CIA, instructing him to gather and pass on information about the defenses and government of Leningrad. He was also told how to get instructions from radio signals, the report said.

At this point, Pravda said, Boris N. went to the KGB and told agents about the American effort to recruit him. He was instructed to play along so that his U.S. contacts could be identified, according to the report.

Boris then received another letter from the CIA, identifying the information drop at Botkin Hospital, Pravda said. On advice from the KGB, he picked up a container from the spot and substituted a new one containing the information requested by the CIA, it said.

When Shorer arrived to retrieve the second container, he was seized by his hands, but he injured himself by falling and striking his head on the asphalt while struggling to get away, Pravda said.